

62d SEASON.

595th CONCERT.

Handel and Haydn Society.

EASTER ORATORIO.

BOSTON MUSIC HALL,



EASTER SUNDAY, April 1, '77.

FOR THE SECOND TIME, HANDEL'S HEROIC ORATORIO,

“JOSHUA,”

WITH THE FOLLOWING MAGNIFICENT ARRAY OF ARTISTS:

Miss EMMA C. THURSBY, Soprano,
Her first appearance here in Oratorio.

Miss ADELAIDE PHILLIPPS, Contralto,
Her first appearance with the Society this Season.

Mrs. F. P. WHITNEY, Soprano.

Mr. JOSEPH MAAS,
Prima Tenor of the Kellogg Opera Company.

Mr. M. W. WHITNEY,
Basso, his first appearance in this work.

GRAND CHORUS, ORCHESTRA AND ORGAN.

CARL ZERRAHN, CONDUCTOR.

B. J. LANG, ORGANIST.

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The Performance will begin at 7 1-2 o'clock.

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JOSHUA.

CHARACTERS REPRESENTED.

JOSHUA, Leader of the Israelites.

CALEB, a Rider or Captain of the Tribe of Judah.

OTHNIEL, a youthful warrior, betrothed to Achsah.

ACHSAH, Daughter to Caleb.

ANGEL.

CHORUS.

ARGUMENT.

PART I.—The Children of Israel celebrate their miraculous passage over the river Jordan, and their entrance into the land of Canaan, under the guidance of Joshua. Joshua receives from an angel his commission to go up against Jericho, and prepares the people for the attack. The mutual attachment of Othniel and Achsah, and the departure of Othniel to join in the war against Jericho.

PART II.—The destruction of the City of Jericho. The feast of the passover kept. Tidings brought of the defeat of Israel at Ai. Joshua rouses the people to renew the attack. Othniel revisits Achsah. Her father, Caleb, dismisses him to the war in defence of the Gibeonites, the allies of Israel. Joshua and his army rescue Gibeon from the five confederate kings of the Amorites. The miracle of the sun and moon being stayed in their course during the battle.

PART III.—The wars having terminated, the people celebrate the praises of Joshua. He allots to Caleb the portion of the land which had been promised him by Moses. The gratitude of Caleb and the members of his tribe. Caleb's promise to bestow his daughter Achsah on whoever shall subdue the City of Debir. The task undertaken by Othniel, for whose success the aid of the Almighty is invoked. Othniel's triumphant return from victory. Receives the reward of his valour. The happy condition of the people, and their grateful ascription of praise to the Almighty.

PART I. INTRODUCTION.

CHORUS.

Ye sons of Israel, ev'ry tribe attend,
Let grateful songs and hymns to heav'n ascend :
In Gilgal, and on Jordan's banks proclaim
One first, one great, one Lord Jehovah's name.

RECIT.—*Joshua.*

Behold, my friends, what vast rewards are giv'n
To all the just, who place their faith in heav'n!
Oh! had your sires obey'd divine command,
They too, like you, had reach'd the promis'd land;
But rebels to the laws th' Almighty gave,
They, in the Desert met an early grave.

Caleb.

O Joshua, both to rule and bless ordain'd;
When Moses the eternal mansions gain'd,
What boundless gratitude to heav'n we owe,
Who did, in thee, a chief so wise bestow!
Courage and conduct shine in thee complete,
Justice and mercy fill thy judgment seat.

AIR.

O first in wisdom, first in pow'r,
Jehovah, ev'ry blessing show'r
Around thy sacred head!
The neigh'ring realms with envy see
The happiness and liberty
O'er all thy people spread.

RECIT.—*Achsah.*

Matrons and virgins, with unweared pray'r,
Solicit heav'n for thee, their fav'rite care.
The first lawgiver broke th' Egyptian chain;
And, by thy hallow'd aid, we Canaan gain.

AIR.

Oh! who can tell, oh! who can hear
Of Egypt, and not shed a tear?
Or, who will not on Jordan smile,
Releas'd from bondage on the Nile!

RECIT.—*Joshua.*

Caleb, attend to all I now prescribe;
One righteous man select from ev'ry tribe,
To bear twelve stones from the divided flood,
Where the priests' feet, and holy cov'nant stood;
In Gilgal place them: hence twelve more provide,
And fix them in the bosom of the tide:
These when our sons shall view with curious eye,
Thus the historic column shall reply:

SOLO AND CHORUS.

To long posterity we here record
The wondrous passage, and the land restor'd :
In wat'ry heaps affrighted Jordan stood,
And baskward to the fountain roll'd his flood.

RECIT.—ACCOMP.—*Joshua.*

So long the memory shall last,
Of all the tender mercies past.

AIR.—*Joshua.*

While Kedron's brook to Jordan's stream
Its silver tribute pays :

And while the glorious sun shall beam
On Canaan golden rays :
So long the memory shall last,
Of all thy tender mercies past.

RECIT.—*Angel.*

Joshua, I come commission'd from on high,
The captain of the host of God am I;
Loose from thy feet thy shoes, for all around
The place whereon thou stand'st, is holy ground.

Joshua.

Low on the earth, Oh! prostrate let me bend,
And thy behests with reverence attend.

RECIT.—ACCOMP.—*Angel.*

Leader of Israel, 'tis the Lord's decree:
That Jericho must fall, and fall by thee:
The tyrant king, and all his heathen train,
At their own idol-altars shall be slain :
Th' embattl'd walls, and tow'rs, that reached the sky,
Shall perish, and in dusty ruin lie;
Scatter'd in air, their ashes shall be lost,
The place, the name, and all remembrance lost.

RECIT.—*Joshua.*

To give command, prerogative is thine :
And humbly to obey, the duty's mine.

AIR.

Haste, Israel, haste, your glitt'ring arms prepare,
With valour abounding,
The city surrounding,
Deal death and dreadful war.

CHORUS.

The Lord commands, and Joshua leads,
Jericho falls, the tyrant bleeds.

RECIT.—ACCOMP.—*Othniel.*

In these blest scenes, where constant pleasure reigns,
And herds and bleating flocks, adorn the plains :
Where the soft season all its blessings sheds,
Refreshing rivers, and enamell'd meads;

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RECIT.—*Caleb.*

Thus far our cause is favour'd by the Lord.
Advance, pursue; Jehovah is the word!

(FLOURISH OF WARLIKE INSTRUMENTS.)

RECIT.—ACCOMP.—*Joshua.*

Oh! thou bright orb, great ruler of the day!
Stop thy swift course, and over Gibeon stay.
And, Oh! thou milder lamp of light, the moon,
Stand still, prolong the beams in Ajalon.

CHORUS.

Behold! the list'ning sun the voice obeys,
And in mid heav'n his rapid motion stays.
Before our arms the scatter'd nations fly,
Breathless they pant, they yield, they fall, they die.

PART III.

CHORUS.

Hail! mighty Joshua, hail! thy name
Shall rise into immortal fame.
Our children's children shall rehearse
Thy deeds in never-dying verse;
And grateful marbles raise to thee,
Great guardian of our liberty!

RECIT.—*Joshua.*

Caleb, for holy Eleazer send,
And bid the chiefs of Israel all attend,
To execute th' Almighty's great command,
And lot among the tribes the conquer'd land.

Caleb.

My cup is full; how blest is this decree!
How can my thanks suffice the Lord, and thee?

AIR.

Shall I in Mamre's fertile plain,
The remnant of my days remain?
And is it giv'n to me to have
A place with Abrah'm in the grave?
For all these mercies I will sing
Eternal praise to heav'n's high king.

CHORUS of the Tribe of *Judah.*

For all these mercies we will sing
Eternal praise to heav'n's high king.

RECIT.—*Othniel.*

O Caleb, fear'd by foes, by friends ador'd,
Well have we paid this tribute to thy sword;
But still, to make thine heritage complete,
Debir remains, Debir the giant's seat.

Caleb.

Worn out in war, I find my strength decline;
Counsel alone, the gift of age, is mine.
Is there a warrior willing to pursue
The conquest, and that stubborn town subdue?
For him, for his, I amply will provide,
And to crown all, Achsah shall be his bride.

Othniel.

Glorious reward! the task be mine alone;
Transporting thought! Caleb, the town's thy own.

AIR.

Place danger around me,
The storm I despise;
What arm shall confound me,
When Achsah's the prize?

CHORUS.

Father of Mercy, hear the pray'r we make,
And save the hero for his country's sake?

RECIT.—*Joshua.*

In bloom of youth, this stripling hath achiev'd
What scarce, in future times, shall be believ'd,
Mankind no sooner did pronounce his name,
But he stood foremost in the rolls of fame:
Tyrants he humbled, with the world's applause,
And sav'd his country's liberty and laws.

TRIO.

See, the conqu'ring hero comes!
Sound the trumpets, beat the drums
Sports prepare, the laurel bring,
Songs of triumphs to him sing.

CHORUS of *Virgins.*

See the godlike youth advance!
Breath the flutes, and lead the dance!
Myrtle wreaths, and roses twine,
To deck the hero's brow divine.

FULL CHORUS.

See the conqu'ring, &c.

RECIT.—*Caleb.*

Welcome! my son, my Othniel, good and great!
The ornament and champion of the state.
Take thy reward, the noblest heav'n can raise,
And lasting love adorn your happy days.

Othniel.

What tongue can utter, or what heart conceive
The joy with which this blessing I receive?

Achsah.

Blest be the pow'r that kept thee save from harms
Blest be the pow'r that gave thee to my arms.

AIR.

Oh! had I Jubal's lyre,
Or Miriam's tuneful voice!
To sounds like his I would aspire,
In songs like her's rejoice:
My humble strains but faintly show,
How much to heav'n and thee I owe.

RECIT.—*Caleb.*

While lawless tyrants, with ambition blind,
Mock solemn faith, waste worlds, and thin mankind;
Israel can boast a leader, just and brave,
A friend to freedom, and ordain'd to save.

Thus blessed, to heav'n your voices raise
In songs of thanks, and hymns of praise.

CHORUS.

The great Jehovah is our awful theme,
Sublime in Majesty, in pow'r supreme.

Hallelujah!

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